

Message Text

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TAGS:

SUBJECT: ASIAN CONFERENCE ON LANDLESS RURAL WORKERS,
MANILA, MARCH 8-12, 1976

REF: 75 STATE 289529

1. ASIAN CONFERENCE ON LANDLESS RURAL WORKERS, COSPONSORED BY US AND PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENTS, WILL BE HELD IN MANILA, MARCH 8-12. FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT COUPLES INFORMATION FROM PREVIOUS MESSAGES WITH OTHER DETAILS, A PRELIMINARY AGENDA AND AVAILABLE DETAILS ON ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

2. AS PART OF AID'S MANPOWER AND EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, CONFERENCE WILL FOLLOW GUIDELINES IN AID "POLICY DETERMINATION ON LABOR-MANPOWER (DISTRIBUTED BY AID TO CIRCULAR A-499, DATED 5-2-73) AND AID "POLICY DETERMINATION ON EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME DISTRIBUTION (AID TO CIRCULAR A-1413, DATED 10-7-72).

3. COUNTRIES ARE TO BE INVITED TO NOMINATE A TOP OFFICIAL (DEPUTY MINISTER, BUREAU DIRECTOR, OR EQUIVALENT) OF LABOR MINISTRY, AND A TOP OFFICIAL OF THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE OR SOME OTHER MINISTRY (SUCH AS PLANNING) CONCERNED WITH HUMAN DIMENSION OF RURAL SECTOR.

4. PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT, THROUGH LABOR SECRETARY OPLE, HAS AGREED THAT US DISSEMINATE ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING CONFERENCE, SECURE INFORMATION RE OFFICIALS YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT MAY WISH TO SEND AND FACILITATE THEIR ATTENDANCE.

5. AS SOON AS NAMES AND TITLES OF NOMINEES ARE AVAILABLE THESE SHOULD BE TRANSMITTED BY TELEGRAM TO AID/W WITH COPY TO AID, MANILA. MESSAGES OF CONFIRMATION WILL BE SENT OUT BY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER OF US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AFTER NAMES OF NOMINEES ARE RECEIVED. ALSO, MISSIONS ARE URGED PROVIDE AID/W AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (BUT NO LATER THAN FEBRUARY 15, 1976) WITH ADDITIONAL PERTINENT BIOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND ON PARTICIPANTS, WITH COPIES TO MANILA.

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6. IN VIEW OF AID'S EMPHASIS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF PERCY AMENDMENT, CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO INCREASED PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN CONFERENCE, WHICH COULD LEAD TO GREATER INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES.

7. MISSIONS SHOULD PROVIDE FOLLOWING DETAILED INFORMATION TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF LABOR, AGRICULTURE AND PLANNING MINISTRIES, OR, IF GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY PROPOSED PARTICIPANTS TO CONFERENCE, TO NOMINEES. AT MISSION'S DISCRETION THIS SHOULD ALSO BE PROVIDED TO LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNDP, ILO, ASIA FOUNDATION, ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK, AND SIMILAR GROUPS CONCERNED ABOUT RURAL

POOR.

GENERAL CONFERENCE INFORMATION

1. ASIAN CONFERENCE ON LANDLESS RURAL WORKERS WILL BE HELD MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1976 - FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1976, AT PHILIPPINE VILLAGE HOTEL IN MANILA. CONFERENCE IS SPONSORED BY GOVERNMENT OF PHILIPPINES, USAID'S OFFICE OF LABOR AFFAIRS, AND US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR'S INTERNATIONAL MANPOWER INSTITUTE. THEME OF CONFERENCE IS "LANDLESS RURAL WORKERS", INCLUDING THOSE WHO RECENTLY MIGRATED TO CITIES.

2. CONFERENCE IS DESIGNED PRIMARILY FOR TOP POLICY MAKERS OF ASIAN GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED ABOUT PROBLEMS OF RURAL POOR AND PARTICULARLY WITH PLIGHT OF LANDLESS RURAL WORKER. IT IS INTENDED TO ATTRACT GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN MANPOWER AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS, ESPECIALLY IN RURAL AREA, OR WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH AGRICULTURAL OR RURAL DEVELOPMENT. CONCERNED OFFICIALS FROM INTERNATIONAL

ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS UN AND OTHERS, ALSO WELCOME TO ATTEND AS OBSERVERS. CONFERENCE IS ORGANIZED TO PERMIT FULL AND FREE EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE, FACT AND OPINION. IT IS NOT INTENDED TO BE POLICY-MAKING SESSION, AND NO RESOLUTIONS WILL BE OFFERED.

FORMAT

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1. PROGRAM INCLUDES SEVEN MAJOR SEGMENTS:

A. PLENARY SESSION, AT WHICH PRINCIPAL TOPICS WILL BE PRESENTED FROM A BROAD VIEWPOINT BY KEY SPEAKERS.

B. PLENARY PANEL SESSIONS, AT WHICH SEVERAL SPEAKERS WILL EACH TREAT SPECIAL ASPECT MAJOR CONFERENCE THEME.

C. ROUND TABLE SESSIONS, UNDER LEADERSHIP OF DESIGNATED INDIVIDUAL, TO DISCUSS IMPORTANT ISSUES ASSOCIATED WITH CONFERENCE.

D. SPLIT SESSIONS, WITH IMPORTANT TOPICS PRESENTED IN SEPARATE SESSIONS BY TWO DIFFERENT SPEAKERS, WITH PARTICIPANTS CHOOSING THOSE THEY WISH TO ATTEND ACCORDING TO THEIR SPECIFIC INTERESTS.

E. WORKSHOPS; OR SMALL GROUP SESSIONS IN WHICH COUNTRY REPORTS ON THEME CAN BE PRESENTED BY PARTICIPANTS.

F. FILMS

G. FIELD TRIP: WEDNESDAY WILL BE DEVOTED TO FIELD TRIP NEAR MANILA TO SOME ACTIVITY RELATED TO THE THEME OF CONFERENCE.

PROCEDURE

1. PREPARED SPEECHES WILL BE PRESENTED IN PLENARY SESSIONS, BUT IN ROUNDTABLES EMPHASIS WILL BE ON FULL PARTICIPATION BY ALL PRESENT. NO PAPERS WILL BE READ IN ROUNDTABLES. NORMALLY CHAIRPERSON OR LEADER WILL PROPOSE KEY QUESTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED, AND TWO OR THREE DISCUSSANTS MAY OPEN DISCUSSION. THEREAFTER, THERE WILL BE GENERAL DISCUSSION.

DOCUMENTATION

1. LIMITED NUMBER OF PAPERS WILL BE PRESENTED AT PLENARY SESSIONS, ALONG WITH BACKGROUND MATERIALS. PARTICIPANTS UNCLASSIFIED

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ARE WELCOME TOH SUBMIT DOCUMENTS FOR CIRCULATION AMONG THOSE ATTENDING CONFERENCE. SUCH DOCUMENTS MAY BE BROUGHT DIRECTLY TO MANILA, OR SENT IN ADVANCE TO MR. AKMAD SAKKAM, INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, PHOENIX BUILDING, INTRAMUROS, MANILA, PHILIPPINES. REQUESTED THAT DOCUMENTS SENT TOH MANILA BE IN SUFFICIENT QUANTITY FOR DISTRIBUTION (MINIMUM OF 50 COPIES).

LANGUAGE

1. CONFERENCE LANGUAGE WILL BE ENGLISH.

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

1. USAID MISSIONS OR OTHER SPONSORS OF CANDIDATES IN AID COUNTRIES ARE EXPECTED PROVIDE ROUND-TRIP TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN PARTICIPANT'S HOME COUNTRY AND MANILA. OFFICE OF LABOR AFFAIRS, AID/WASHINGTON WILL PROVIDE PER DIEM FOR HOTEL AND OTHER MAINTENANCE COSTS IN MANILA. PARTICIPANTS FROM NON-AID COUNTRIES MUST BE FULLY FUNDED BY THEIR SPONSORS.

CALL FORWARD

1. ALL PARTICIPANTS ARRIVE MANILA MARCH 7.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM (AS OF JANUARY 15, 1976, AND SUBJECT TO MODIFICATION)

THEME

1. LITTLE PROOF NEED BE OFFERED THAT LARGE MAJORITY OF

POOR OF LDCS ARE FOUND AMONG RURAL POPULATION. RURAL POVERTY IN FOUR ASIAN COUNTRIES ALONE -- INDIA, INDONESIA, BANGLADESH AND PAKISTAN -- AFFECTS SOME 400 MILLION PEOPLE, AND ON LESS MASSIVE SCALE IS WIDESPREAD IN SEVERAL ASIAN COUNTRIES AS WELL. AMONG THE RURAL POOR ONE GROUP HAS BEEN STEADILY INCREASING AND IS LARGEST AMONG ALL RURAL POOR -- THE LANDLESS RURAL WORKER.

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2. LANDLESS RURAL WORKERS (INCLUDING GROUPS OF PLANTATION WORKERS) INCLUDE WAGE EARNERS (PAID IN CASH OR KIND) WITHOUT SIGNIFICANT MEANS OF EXISTENCE OTHER THAN THEIR LOW-PAID LABOR, OFTEN FOR SHORT SEASONAL PERIODS ONLY. IN FOUR COUNTRIES MENTIONED ABOVE THERE ARE ESTIMATED 60 MILLION SUCH WORKERS. ONE MUST ALSO INCLUDE IN THIS CATEGORY THE VERY SMALL FARMERS, TENANTS, AND SHARE-CROPPERS WHOSE LAND IS TOO SMALL TO FEED THEM OR TO KEEP THEM FULLY OCCUPIED; THEY ARE BY NO MEANS BETTER OFF THAN RURAL

WAGE EARNERS. ESTIMATED THAT IN ASIA SOME 26 MILLION PERSONS ARE IN THIS GROUP. IN ADDITION ONE MUST INCLUDE NON-AGRICULTURAL WORKERS ENGAGED IN RURAL HANDICRAFTS, WHO ARE WITHOUT WORKSHOPS AND WITHOUT WORK BECAUSE DEMAND FOR THEIR PRODUCTS IS DISAPPEARING OR BECAUSE THEY ARE USUALLY TOO DEEP IN DEBT.

3. ALTHOUGH THE CONFERENCE WILL FOCUS PRIMARILY ON WORKERS ALREADY CITED, ONE IS UNABLE TO IGNORE RURAL DWELLERS WHO ARE PHYSICALLY UNABLE TO WORK -- CHILDREN, PREGNANT WOMEN, OLD PEOPLE, INVALIDS, SICK PERSONS, ETC.

4. PHILIPPINE SECRETARY OF LABOR, BLAS OPLE, WHOSE GOVERNMENT IS ONE JOINT SPONSOR OF CONFERENCE, SPEAKING BEFORE A GROUP OF SENIOR ASIAN OFFICIALS EXPRESSED IT WELL WHEN HE SAID, "HE (THE LANDLESS RURAL WORKER) IS THE MAN IN LIMBO -- ADMINISTRATIVELY OCCUPYING A NO MAN'S LAND BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, AND YET HE IS RAPIDLY OUTNUMBERING ALL THE FARMERS IN THE RURAL AREAS." IT IS SAID THAT OUTSIDE PLANTATION SECTOR VERY FEW COUNTRIES HAD ADOPTED SPECIAL LAWS FOR IMPROVING CONDITIONS OF LANDLESS RURAL WORKERS, AND THAT THERE WAS NOT AN ADEQUATE AWARENESS OF SIZE AND NATURE OF PROBLEMS OF SUCH WORKERS IN MANY ASIAN COUNTRIES.

5. PURPOSE OF THE CONFERENCE IS, AS SECRETARY OPLE HAS EMPHASIZED, TO REDISCOVER THIS "FORGOTTEN SPECIES" OF LABOR FORCE, AND TO FOCUS ATTENTION OF GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS UPON THIS ELEMENT RURAL POVERTY PROBLEM. CONFERENCE TASK IS TO DISCOVER HOW ONE

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MIGHT MOBILIZE FORCES AND RESOURCES WHERE PROBLEM OF
LANDLESS RURAL WORKER IS ALREADY OR WILL BECOME OF SERIOUS
CONCERN. IT IS HOPED THAT PARTICIPANTS WILL APPROACH
KEY ISSUES FROM ACTION ORIENTED POINT OF VIEW, THAT IS,
TO EXCHANGE IDEAS AND EXPERIENCE ON PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS,
ON TESTED STRATEGIES, WITHIN CONTEXT OF ASIAN SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC DIMENSIONS.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM AGENDA

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 1976

REGISTRATION

(1900 OPENING RECEPTION - WELCOME)

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1976

0930 INAUGURAL SESSION:

--- ADDRESSES BY PHILIPPINE LABOR SECRETARY BLAS
--- OPLE, AND GREETINGS BY AID MISSION DIRECTOR,
--- OTHER DISTINGUISHED ASIAN LEADERS.

1100 KEYNOTE ADDRESS:

--- OUTSTANDING GUEST SPEAKER WILL TALK ON "DIMEN-
--- SIONS OF RURAL POVERTY IN ASIA."

1230 LUNCH

1430 PLENARY PANEL SESSION:

--- ACTION BY SELECTED ASIAN COUNTRIES TO DEAL
--- WITH PROBLEM OF LANDLESS RURAL WORKERS IN
--- RURAL AREAS, AND OF MIGRANTS TO CITIES WILL
--- BE DESCRIBED AND ANALYZED BY PANEL OF HIGH
--- OFFICIALS OF THOSE PARTICULAR COUNTRIES.

1630 WORKSHOPS:

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--- SMALL GROUPS IN WHICH PROBLEMS OF EACH COUNTRY
--- ARE DISCUSSED.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1976

0900 PLENARY SESSION:

--- "STRATEGIES FOR EMPLOYMENT GENERATION AND
--- MOBILIZATION OF RURAL SECTOR"

1100 ROUND TABLE SESSIONS: (SUGGESTED ISSUES FOR
--- DISCUSSION)

--- 1) ALTHOUGH RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS HAVE
--- BEEN A CRUCIAL ELEMENT IN AID PROGRAMS OF IN-
--- TERNATIONAL AGENCIES, NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS
--- AND PRIVATE FOUNDATIONS DURING THE PAST 30
--- YEARS, IT IS STILL VERY DIFFICULT TO REACH
--- POOREST RURAL WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.
--- WHY?

--- 2) IF IT IS POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE NATIONAL
--- COMMITMENT TO BRING ABOUT MAJOR LAND REFORM
--- AND TENANCY LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE LIVES OF
--- LANDLESS RURAL WORKER, HOW IS THIS TO BE TRANS-
--- LATED INTO EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION FOR MEAN-

--- INGFUL CHANGE?

--- 3) CAN PROBLEM OF UNEMPLOYED IN CITIES BE
--- SOLVED BY MEASURES TO STOP OR REDUCE RURAL-
--- URBAN MIGRATION?

--- 4) WHAT ROLE SHOULD RURAL INSTITUTIONS, SUCH
--- AS COOPERATIVES, UNIONS AND EMPLOYERS' AND
--- WORKERS' ORGANIZATIONS PLAY IN STRATEGY TO
--- IMPROVE CONDITIONS OF LANDLESS RURAL WORKERS?

--- 5) IT HAS BEEN SAID THAT PROBLEM POSED BY
--- INCREASING NUMBERS OF AGRICULTURAL LABORERS
--- COULD NOT BE MET WITHOUT MAJOR CHANGE IN
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---- AGRARIAN STRUCTURES AND INSTITUTIONS; WHAT
--- KIND OF CHANGES? WHAT ORDER OF PRIORITIES?
--- WHAT METHOD OF CARRYING THEM OUT?

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1430 SPLIT SESSIONS:

--- 1) TRAINING POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND INSTITU-
--- TIONS FOR EMPLOYMENT IN RURAL AREAS.

2) IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON RURAL WORKER.

--- WORKSHOPS: (CONTINUATION FROM MONDAY'S
--- PROGRAM)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10, 1976

FIELD TRIP: (SPECIFIC PROGRAM AT LATER DATE.)

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1976

0900 PLENARY PANEL SESSION:

--- "ACCESS TO INPUTS AND SERVICES NEEDED FOR
--- PRODUCING INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT"

1100 SPLIT SESSIONS:

--- 1) EMPLOYMENT POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND RESEARCH
--- THAT FULLY UTILIZE WOMEN'S POTENTIAL IN THEIR
--- ROLE AS RURAL WORKERS.

--- 2) SPECIAL PROBLEMS OF YOUTH IN LABOR ABSORP-
--- TION IN RURAL AREAS.

1230 LUNCH

1430 PLENARY SESSION:

--- "ABSORPTION OF THE UNEMPLOYED RURAL WORKER IN
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--- URBAN AREAS."

1630 WORKSHOPS:

FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 1976

0900 PLENARY PANEL SESSION:

--- "GOVERNMENT AND NON-GOVERNMENT ACTION DEALING
--- WITH RURAL WORKERS"

--- A) ROLE OF LABOR MINISTRIES IN COOPERATION
--- WITH OTHER AGENCIES CONCERNED WITH RURAL DE-
--- VELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT.

--- B) ACTION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS,
--- I.E., TRADE UNIONS, COOPERATIVES, ETC. STRUGG-
--- LING AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT AND RURAL POVERTY.

1100 PLENARY SESSION:

--- CONCLUSION/SUMMARY OF THE CONFERENCE

1300 CONFERENCE ENDS

KISSINGER

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